

INSIDE



Book Festival Debuts

The 21st National Book Festival launched this morning on the Library's website, preceded by a PBS television special on Sunday.

PAGE 3

Literacy Awards Announced

The Library is honoring three organizations, including Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, for fostering literacy and reading.

PAGE 5



Q&A: Kelly Chisholm

The head of the Library's Moving Image Archival Unit, a lifelong film lover, discusses some of her favorite projects at the Library.

PAGE 6

Obituary: Welton Belsches

Belsches was one of the first Library staff members to process Equal Employment Opportunity cases and grievances.

PAGE 7



Daymé Arocena (clockwise from top left); Third Coast Percussion with dancer Quentin Robinson; Jess Gillam; the Calidore Quartet; Wynton Marsalis; and Imani Winds.

Courtesy of the Music Division

Music Division Announces Fall Concert Season

The new season features stellar performances across genres.

BY ANNE MCLEAN

A packed and exciting fall lineup kicks off the 2021-22 Concerts from the Library of Congress season, presenting master musicians and a wide-ranging, diverse roster of virtual events in classical music, jazz and dance.

On offer are concerts, lectures, conversations with artists and composers and innovative interdisciplinary projects. Viewers can enjoy taking a deep dive through curator talks that illuminate the Music Division's rich collections and a constellation of digital assets – for each event, documents, artifacts, manuscripts and scores will be posted online.

Wynton Marsalis' "A Fiddler's Tale" launches the season on Oct. 8 with Nic Few as narrator and Damien Sneed conducting. Recorded in cooperation with the Morgan Library & Museum, this concert spotlights musicians who are principal players in some of the nation's major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

Kazem Abdullah from the Concert Office interviews Marsalis about the work – which features a record producer as the devil – and about the librettist Marsalis chose as partner, the late poet and critic Stanley Crouch.

CONCERTS, CONTINUED ON 8

NOTICES

DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Gloria Dixon at gdixon@loc.gov.

Lynette Brown
Tiffany Corley Harkins
Stephanie Jefferson

Linda Malone
Kenneth Mitchell

NEW LCM PUBLISHED: COLLECTING THE GLOBE

Did you know the Library has several offices throughout the world? Explore these locations in the [September/October issue of the Library of Congress Magazine](#).



OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the staff intranet at <http://staff.loc.gov/sites/rules-and-regulations/>.

To make a report, contact OIG via the online form at www.loc.gov/about/office-of-the-inspector-general/contact-us/ or report anonymously by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.

HAVING TECHNICAL ISSUES?

The Office of the Chief Information Officer's service desk is staffed around the clock with technicians ready to help. Contact ocioservicedesk@loc.gov or (202) 707-7727.

Special Extended!

CASH BACK

ON **ALL AUTO LOANS**
NEW/USED – BUY/REFI*

1% **Cash Back*** • as low as **1.99% APR***

APPLY TODAY — *before it goes away!*

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Better BANKING for Less

LCFCU.org
202-707-5852

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate subject to change without notice. 1% of amount financed, up to \$500 maximum Cash Back offer only applies to new/used vehicle financing or refinanced vehicle loans from other lenders and does not apply to any other LCFCU loan product. Existing LCFCU loans NOT ELIGIBLE. \$10,000 minimum loan amount required for cash back. Offer **ENDS 9/30/21** and may be withdrawn without notice. Other restrictions may apply.

GAZETTE

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

loc.gov/staff/gazette

APRIL SLAYTON
Executive Editor

MARK HARTSELL
Publications Editor

WENDI A. MALONEY
Writer-Editor

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Deanna McCray-James, calendar
Kia Campbell, Moving On
Lisa Davis, donated leave

PROOFREADER
George Thuronyi

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION
Ashley Jones

MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at loc.gov/staff/gazette.

GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

Library of Congress Gazette

Washington, DC 20540-1620

Editorial: Mark Hartsell, 7-9194, mhartsell@loc.gov,

or Wendi Maloney, 7-0979, wmal@loc.gov

Design and production: Ashley Jones, 7-9193, gaze@loc.gov
ISSN 1049-8184

Printed by the Printing Management Section

GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the Oct. 1 Gazette is Wednesday, Sept. 22.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

To promote events through the Library's online calendar (www.loc.gov/loc/events) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to calendar@loc.gov by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

National Book Festival Opens Its Virtual Doors

A nationally broadcast PBS special on Sunday preceded the kickoff.

BY WENDI A. MALONEY

With the release this morning of 35 on-demand videos, the Library officially launched the 21st edition of its widely beloved celebration of books and reading.

The kickoff culminates at 7 p.m. this evening with a live conversation between actor and children's literacy advocate LeVar Burton and Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. Dolly Parton will join the pair, the Library announced this week.

Parton's Imagination Library just won a 2021 Literacy Award (see page 5).

Over the festival's 10 days – it runs through Sept. 26 – more than 100 authors, poets and writers will speak about their latest works, and some will engage audiences live. The [festival website](#) offers multiple ways to participate.

Fans got a preview of 20 festival headliners Sunday evening when a PBS television special hosted by Burton aired across the country. Titled "Open a Book, Open the World," the special reflected the theme of this year's festival through conversations with authors across genres.

"If you are an avid reader, one thing you know about books is how they can open up the world," Burton said.

Amy Tan's 1989 book, "The Joy Luck Club," had that effect on Viet Thanh Nguyen. "I had never read a book by an Asian American writer before," he said. "That opened the possibility for me to think that I could write about people who were of Asian descent."

Nguyen won a Pulitzer Prize in 2016 for his debut novel, "The Sympathizer." His newest book, "The Committed," continues the tale.



Viet Thanh Nguyen reflects on his journey to authorship on the PBS special.

Tana French, who has been dubbed the "first lady of Irish crime," sees books as giving "you this chance to see the world, even for a brief glimpse, through someone else's eyes." Her latest mystery, "The Searcher," tells the story of a retired American cop who moves to Ireland to escape his troubles only to become embroiled in a crime investigation.

Critically acclaimed author Isabel Wilkerson said narrative nonfiction, her genre, "is the closest that many of us will ever get to being another person." Her latest book "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents," defines a hidden hierarchy of human rankings in America.

For poet Amanda Gorman – cast into the limelight at President Joe Biden's inauguration – books have always been a place not only where she can "open up a page and discover a world," but also where she can "at the same time discover myself."

Other headliners spoke about their personal relationship with books: "Books are everywhere in my life" (Michael J. Fox); "Books have always ... shown me just how big and how small the world is (Roxane Gay); "An addiction to reading has been a key secret of my success" (Bill Gates); "It was

literature that opened up so many pathways, so many possibilities, for me" (Yaa Gyasi).

Between authors, Hayden described some of the Library's treasures – collections of presidential papers, papers of change-makers like Rosa Parks, Susan B. Anthony and Thurgood Marshall and the 1507 Waldseemüller world map. "Talk about opening the world," she said.

Those who missed the television special on Sunday need not worry. A recording is accessible on the book festival website.

The site is also the portal to all other festival content – the on-demand videos, live virtual author conversations (see page 4), audience Q&A sessions for children and teens, two in-person events with simultaneous livestreaming and five interactive presentations with Library experts.

New to the festival this year, and also accessible through the site, are related NPR podcasts, Washington Post Live interviews and local events in communities across the country.

Enjoy! ■

<div> <div>VIRTUAL LIVE EVENT</div> <div>SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE</div> <div>LIBRARY OF CONGRESS</div> <div>NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL</div> <div>loc.gov/bookfest</div> </div>										
All times are ET	FRIDAY SEPT 17	SATURDAY SEPT 18	SUNDAY SEPT 19	MONDAY SEPT 20	TUESDAY SEPT 21	WEDNESDAY SEPT 22	THURSDAY SEPT 23	FRIDAY SEPT 24	SATURDAY SEPT 25	SUNDAY SEPT 26
12:00 pm		T Jason Reynolds								
1:00 pm		H Catherine Belton, Joshua Yaffa	L Katherine May						T Kekla Magoon	C Derrick Barnes
2:00 pm		CE Daniel Kahneman, Cass R. Sunstein	F Yiyun Li, Douglas Stuart						T Trung Le Nguyen	C Rep. Sharice Davids
3:00 pm		F Elizabeth Hand, Alex Michaelides	S Matt Parker	LC The Visible Book A Look Inside at Book Construction, Historic to Modern	LC Copyright The Engine of Free Expression	LC Art, Literature and Poetry Creative Collaborations at the Library of Congress	LC With Great Responsibility The Spider-Man Origin Story in Art and Comic Books	LC Family Secrets Navigating Unexpected Genealogical Finds	T Tahereh Mafi	C Jerry Pinkney
4:00 pm	P Kelli Jo Ford, Toni Jensen	S Mary Roach, Suzanne Simard	H Joseph J. Ellis		F Kristin Hannah, Maggie Shipstead	S Olivia Campbell, Janice P. Nimura	L Hawa Hassan, Marcus Samuelsson	H Julia Sweig, Karen Tumulty	T Traci Chee	C Mindy Thomas
5:00 pm	CE Eric Eyre, Patrick Radden Keefe	P Patricia Engel, Rivka Galchen	L Jennifer Ackerman, David Allen Sibley	F Kristen Arnett, Raven Leilani	H Simon Winchester	F Brit Bennett, Robert Jones Jr.	F Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, Deesha Philyaw	CE David Nasaw, Sonia Shah	F Margot Livesey, Sue Miller	C Dan Gutman
6:00 pm	CE Sarah Frier, Anna Wiener	H Heather McGhee	H Noé Álvarez, María Hinojosa	CE Lawrence Wright	P Danielle Evans, Charles Yu	H Kai Bird, James Oakes, David O. Stewart	S Peter Godfrey-Smith	F Alice McDermott, George Saunders	F P. Djèlí Clark	P Claudia Rankine, Phillip B. Williams, Kevin Young
7:00 pm	L LeVar Burton		F Elliot Ackerman, Adm. James Stavridis		L Adrienne Raphel, Will Shortz	S Avi Loeb	L Rodney Scott, Trisha Yearwood	P Francine J. Harris, Patrick Rosal	P Nikki Giovanni	
KEY C=Children • CE=Current Events • F=Fiction • H=History & Biography • LC=Library of Congress • L=Lifestyle • P=Poetry & Prose • S=Science • T=Teens										

NOT GETTING ALL-STAFF EMAILS?

Any employees who are not receiving all-staff emails should notify the Office of the Chief Information Officer at (202) 707-7727 or ocioservicedesk@loc.gov. Include your name, email address and service unit, and you will be added to the appropriate service or support-unit group email account.

HCD SERVICES PORTAL

During this period of remote work, the [Human Capital Directorate \(HCD\) services portal](#) is there to help. Ask questions of HCD professionals; submit documents related to benefits, retirement and payroll matters; and track requests.

REPORT UNUSUAL COMPUTER ACTIVITY

Security Emergency: If you suspect that your Library of Congress system has been compromised or have an IT security emergency, contact infosec@loc.gov immediately.

Possible phishing attempt: Did you receive an email that you think is suspicious? Forward the email as an attachment to infosec@loc.gov.

For more information, visit the [IT security website](#).

Library Announces 2021 Literacy Awards

Three organizations working to expand literacy and promote reading will be awarded the 2021 Library of Congress Literacy Awards, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced last week. Top prizes are being awarded to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the Parents as Teachers National Center and the Luminos Fund.

The Literacy Awards, originated by major Library benefactor David M. Rubenstein, honor organizations doing exemplary, innovative and replicable work. The awards recognize the need for the international community to unite in achieving universal literacy.

"Through the generosity of David M. Rubenstein, the Library of Congress is proud to honor and celebrate the achievements of these extraordinary organizations in their efforts to advance literacy and enable people to survive and thrive in the world," Hayden said.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, based in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, is receiving the 2021 David M. Rubenstein Prize (\$150,000). An initiative of the nonprofit Dollywood Foundation, the library provides books free of charge to families through local community partnerships. As of March 2021, 1.8 million books were being mailed every month to children in the U.S., the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, the Republic of Ireland and dozens of indigenous communities in multiple countries and territories.

Since 2014, when the Imagination Library received "best practice" recognition from the Library of Congress Literacy Awards, the Dollywood Foundation has strategically positioned the library for aggressive growth. In 2018, it achieved a milestone of 100 million books mailed to children; by the end of 2020, it surpassed 150 million books.



Top prizes of the 2021 Literacy Awards are being awarded to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (from top left), the Parents as Teachers National Center and the Luminos Fund.

The Parents as Teachers National Center in St. Louis is receiving the American Prize (\$50,000). It seeks to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are ready to learn by matching parents and caregivers with professionals who make regular home visits during a child's earliest years.

The center began in the 1980s and is now the most replicated home visiting model in the U.S. It has trained thousands of early childhood family support professionals through its curricula and programs, which prepare home visitors and supervisors to implement effective parent education in literacy, health and human services. Other groups, such as Head Start, school districts and hospitals, incorporate the cen-

ter's curricula into their work.

The Luminos Fund in Boston is receiving the International Prize (\$50,000). It provides transformative education programs to out-of-school children, helping them to catch up to grade level, reintegrate into local schools and prepare for lifelong learning. In Ethiopia, Liberia and Lebanon, it helps children cover three school grades of learning in 10 months. The fund also provides a toolkit for other governments and nongovernmental organizations to adopt its core program, Second Chance, which helps students increase their reading ability while gaining a positive view of their future. To date, the fund has reached more than 152,000 children across the globe.

The Library of Congress Literacy Awards Program is honoring 14 additional organizations for implementing highly successful practices in literacy promotion. These honorees, recipients of \$5,000 each, are Associates in Research and Education for Development (Dakar, Senegal); Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy (Washington, D.C.); Books for Kids Foundation (New York); Citizens Foundation (Karachi, Pakistan); Global Center for the Development of the Whole Child (Notre Dame, Indiana); Friends of Tonga (Laurel, Maryland); FunDza Literacy Trust (Cape Town, South Africa); Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy (University Park, Pennsylvania); Learning Source (Lakewood, Colorado); Literacy Connects (Tucson, Arizona); Literacy Minnesota (St. Paul, Minnesota); Raising a Reader (Milpitas, California); Seeds of Literacy (Cleveland); and VALUEUSA (Media, Pennsylvania).

More information on the awards and previous winners is [available here](#). ■



Kelly Chisholm

Kelly Chisholm is head of the Moving Image Archival Unit at the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center (NAVCC).

Tell us about your background.

I grew up in Newark, Delaware, with a love of classic film. By high school, I was going to art theaters in nearby Wilmington and Philly and attending film screenings at the University of Delaware that broadened my film horizons.

That said, I started off at the University of Delaware as a chemical engineering major and ended up completing a degree in chemistry! But I took some film studies courses, first just for fun, but then I ended up identifying moving image preservation as a viable career option. So, I supplemented my chemistry courses with film history, film studies and art conservation courses.

After undergrad, I attended the L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation at the George Eastman Museum in Rochester, New York. I eventually got a job at the UCLA Film and Television Archive in Los Angeles. From there, I moved to the Academy Film Archive, where I worked for six years before returning back East

to work at NAVCC in Culpeper.

What brought you to the Library, and what do you do?

Working in the Moving Image Section at the Library had been in the back of my mind since I was in the Selznick Program in 2001-02. My husband and I are both from the East Coast, and it was never our long-term plan to live in Los Angeles. So, when a handful of jobs were posted for NAVCC in 2009, I applied and arrived as a technician in the Moving Image Section.

I was in that role until 2019, when I moved into the newly created position of head of the Moving Image Archival Unit. I lead a team of eight technicians in processing moving image collections and providing access to the collection for the reference center and preservation labs.

My team processes gift collections of film and video material, which can be really complex – the same content can come on multiple formats, and there can be multiple versions of a finished work (like the director's cut of a movie versus the original release version). My staff all have a passion for and expertise in moving image material, so we work together to apply archival practice to the collections and take them from a mess of boxes and reels of film to something that is findable and accessible.

I also track collections before they are processed, identify future projects and keep track of supplies. Right now, I'm working on some software testing – just a little bit of everything!

What are some of your standout projects?

While working on the J. Fred MacDonald Collection, which is largely made up of educational and industrial films, I found an alternate version of a popular Cold War educa-

tional film called "The House in the Middle." The famous version is propaganda – it posits that by keeping your yard tidy and your house freshly painted, you just might pull through a nuclear attack. The earlier version is more disturbing. It contains a lot of footage of nuclear tests and their effects on typical houses, and there is no clear takeaway on how anyone could survive an attack. (I've written more about the two versions of the films on the NAVCC blog and for the National Film Registry.)

Also, in 2019, I worked with Madeline Mitchell, a junior fellow, as she processed home movies from the Prelinger Archive Collection. She connected movies in the collection that had become separated, identified family members in films and added a lot of context that was previously lacking. It was a really great project to watch unfold. That's my favorite part of this work: really getting inside a collection and becoming its expert and champion.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

Not shockingly, I love movies and TV! But in addition to that, my husband and I play a lot of video games and intense board games, and we enjoy escape rooms and traveling. During the pandemic, we took up fostering kittens for our local shelter, and that's been a really rewarding way to spend our time at home.

What is something your co-workers may not know about you?

Some of my co-workers already know this, but as an employee of the Academy Film Archive, I had the pleasure of going to the Oscars six times. It was always really fun and surreal, and I had a tendency to hang out in the lobby bar for most of the evening just to enjoy the people watching. ■

**Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at
www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/**

OBITUARY



Welton Bernard Belsches

Welton Bernard Belsches, retired employee of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Complaints Office, died on Aug. 25 at Doctor's Hospital in Prince George's County, Maryland. He was 78.

Belsches earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Norfolk State College in 1967. The same year, he started his career at the

Library in the Catalog Publication Office as an assistant editor.

After Lawrence Q. Mumford, the 11th Librarian of Congress, approved the implementation of an EEO program, 13 Library employees were appointed to serve as part-time EEO counselors and officers for the program. Belsches was selected in 1973. He rapidly learned discrimination law and began processing EEO cases and grievances.

Belsches continued his education and in 1975 earned a master's degree from Bowie State University in personnel management. In 1980, he earned another master's degree in counseling education from Central Michigan University.

Over the years, Belsches investigated and resolved numerous discrimination complaints filed by Library employees. Eventually, he was selected as a full-time EEO

investigator and was assigned as a permanent employee within EEO.

Because of his knowledge of discrimination law and Library regulations and his excellent writing skills, Welton was later appointed as the acting chief of the EEO office. As acting chief, Belsches had faith in this staff, and he was loved by them and by other coworkers.

Belsches retired from the Library in July 2003. Afterward, he participated in a retired EEO employees fellowship group that often met for luncheons. Throughout his life, he never let anyone down when he was needed, and he will be greatly missed.

With his wife, Shirley Harris Belsches, whom he married in 1967, Belsches parented one daughter, Consuella, and he leaves behind two granddaughters. ■

NEWS

Staff Changes in the Inspector General's Office

Kurt Hyde retired as inspector general at the Library on Aug. 31, and Kimberly Byrd has assumed the role of acting inspector general. Previously, she was deputy to the inspector general and served as assistant inspector general for audits.

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden thanked Hyde for his years of dedicated service upon his retirement, stating that he was invaluable in helping set the Library on a path of modernization and performance-driven strategy.

Before arriving at the Library, Hyde was deputy inspector general for audit and evaluations with the Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program. In the 1990s, he served as deputy assis-

tant inspector general for the Resolution Trust Corporation. He also worked at the Government Accountability Office and the Department of Transportation as well as in the private sector and as a consultant to a nonprofit.

A certified public accountant, Byrd has extensive experience in the inspector general community and federal agency operations. She leads a team of auditors and contractors who perform audits and evaluations of the Library's high-risk management challenges, including its information technology modernization efforts, financial reporting responsibilities and strategic planning and performance management efforts.

Before joining the Library, Byrd served in senior executive posi-

tions at the Social Security Administration, first as acting associate commissioner of antifraud programs, then as executive director of audits and improper payment prevention. She also served as the agency's deputy inspector general.

She led the inspector general's information technology division, assessing the agency's controls for securing personally identifiable information for the nearly 500 million individuals to whom the agency has assigned social security numbers since its inception. In addition, Byrd regularly updated the agency's congressional oversight staff on the agency's progress in correction identified weaknesses. ■

CONCERTS, CONTINUED FROM 1

“Tchaikovsky and His Poets,” scheduled for Oct. 14, is a sumptuous recital and revelatory composer portrait from an all-star trio: Mezzo-soprano Alice Coote, whose remarkable voice The Arts Desk has described as “an all-terrain vehicle of awesome powers,” and pianist Christian Blackshaw are joined by actor Ralph Fiennes. Famous for his roles in “The English Patient” and as Voldemort in the Harry Potter films, Fiennes delivers beautiful readings of poems and letters in finely nuanced shades of timbre and tone.

On Oct. 29, Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes performs Beethoven, Dvořák and selections from Grieg’s “Lyric Pieces” in the intimate recital hall at the Edvard Grieg Museum in Bergen, Norway.

Violinist Augustin Hadelich adds a sparkling “bonus track” performance of two Paganini showstoppers to his recital with Orion Weiss. In an accompanying presentation by Melissa Wertheimer, viewers can sample treasures from the Music Division’s huge Paganini Collection, including his “secret red diary.”

Thought-provoking interdisciplinary collaborations from Third Coast Percussion and Hub New Music highlight music traversing boundaries of style and genre.

Third Coast players perform “Metamorphosis” on Oct. 30 with two brilliant dancers, Ron Myles and Quentin Robinson, in the Library’s annual Founder’s Day concert honoring Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge. Their breathtaking video showcases a lexicon of American street dance styles in choreography created by Jon Boogz and Lil Buck from Movement Art Is. Set to compositions by Tyondai Braxton, Philip Glass and electronic music composer and producer Jlin, “Metamorphosis” is a journey of becoming, one that contemplates issues of identity, growth and transformation.

The spectacular dance and percussion concert makes a bow

to Coolidge’s adventurous dance commissions, considered cultural landmarks today: “Apollon Musagète” and “Appalachian Spring.”

Hub New Music, a versatile and virtuosic ensemble of flute, clarinet, violin and cello, gives the premiere performance on Nov. 5 of Carlos Simon’s powerful “Requiem for the Enslaved,” inspired by the history of 272 enslaved workers Georgetown University sold to pay its debts.

Simon is a professor at Georgetown, which commissioned the evening-length work, and recipient of the 2021 Sphinx Medal of Excellence recognizing extraordinary classical Black and Latino musicians. He is the pianist for the performance, which also features spoken-word artist and hip-hop advocate Marco Pavé and trumpeter Jared Bailey.

Simon is one of three composers who will perform their own compositions this fall. Earlier in the season, on Oct. 15, Havana-born vocalist Daymé Arocena performs nine of her songs. Her handsomely produced video is a glorious fusion of jazz, Santería chants, Afro-Cuban rhythms and R&B.

Then, on Dec. 11, trumpeter and singer Bria Skonberg – a rare combination! – performs jazz classics and her own compositions with her quintet. Skonberg, admired as a hot jazz revivalist, was the bandleader for Lincoln Center’s “Sisterhood of Swing” project.

Arocena and Skonberg have also recorded new additions to the Music Division’s popular series of engaging educational videos for viewers of all ages.

On Nov. 19, cellist Zuill Bailey plays the soaring, deeply romantic Rachmaninoff Op. 19 sonata with pianist Bryan Wallick. Bailey also conducts a virtual master class with cellists from the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, which will be available on the Library’s website.

The distinguished Netherlands Chamber Choir has enjoyed a

reputation for superb Bach performances for eight decades. On Dec. 3, the choir performs J.S. Bach’s Christmas Oratorio with a partner of equal caliber, the period instrument orchestra Concerto Köln.

At 22, saxophonist Jess Gillam is a galvanizing force in the music world for her “irrepressible, unpretentious, outrageously virtuosic music-making” (in the words of inews.co.uk). On Dec. 9, she performs works by Poulenc and Marcello along with recent works written for her.

Imani Winds, an amazing quintet of artists who have revolutionized the woodwind world, joins forces with the Catalyst Quartet on Dec. 10 for a nonet: Roberto Sierra’s “Concierto de Cámara.”

The season’s final event is a concert of Haydn, Mendelssohn and Brahms by the Calidore String Quartet, recorded on-site at the Library on the incomparable Stradivari instruments donated by Gertrude Clarke Whittall. The performance will be webcast on Dec. 18 as the Music Division’s annual Stradivari memorial concert.

“Building our virtual series has been a great adventure for us – new artists, new technologies and new audiences,” Susan Vita, the Music Division’s chief, said. “It’s been wonderful to see our concerts hit nearly 137,000 views from patrons in 30 countries.”

The division is committed to continuing to produce special projects embracing its virtual concertgoers, she said. “But we are eagerly looking forward to a return to our almost 100-year tradition of live events in the Coolidge Auditorium. February is the month we’re aiming for!”

All performances will be made available at 8 p.m. on the scheduled premiere date on www.loc.gov/concerts, on the [Library’s YouTube channel](#) and on its [Performing Arts Facebook page](#).

All full listing of concerts and events for the fall 2021 season is [available here](#). ■